

## A TILT OF THE WITS

As Mark Twain left the country yesterday Henry W. Lucy ("Achy, M. P.," of PUNCH), was entering "The English wit and humorist arrived on the Lucania. He has come to deliver a series of lectures—"Pops at Parliament," and "Pine Ministers I have Known," among others.

"It is an Englishman whom you cannot appreciate an American joke," "Toby, M. P.," of PUNCH, was asked.

"I was never much conscious of the inability myself," replied Mr. Lucy, "but I answer the question by telling a story of Mark Twain, who is one of the most delightful men I ever knew."

At a dinner given to the artist, E. A. Abbey, by Mrs. Abbey, and which was a surprise to the artist, I met Mark Twain. After dinner he proposed to me to start in partnership with him a weekly newspaper to be called "The Obituary."

The scheme was to print obituaries about persons before they were old, writing the most delightful things that could be said about them, then send them a puff and demand \$50 for suppressing the obituary.

"The before telling for America I wrote Mr. Twain telling him that I had never received a cent from 'The Obituary' and asked him how the paper was getting along."

The morning when the ship arrived I received from Mark Twain this note: "Mr. Lucy—You arrive on this forenoon. I leave on this afternoon in order to avoid an accounting."

He needs to account to me, I fancy, as some of us in disguise, I guess.

That one American joke I understand anyway," chuckled Mr. Lucy. When Mark Twain, who was about to sail with his wife and daughter, and Miss Clara L. and Jean Clemens, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hapgood, of Alton, Ill., on the Princess Irene for Italy, was told of Mr. Lucy's story of the partnership, the American humorist replied:

"That's true. We did talk it over. There was a better-paying institution that he could have devised than what you call 'The Obituary.' The object was to write up a man's life while he was living and get money out of him, because you can't get a man when he's dead. There's money in a corpse."

"What he was to do was to write up a man very thoroughly, cover up all his spots and cover them up cleverly, so there are few men that don't have spots in their lives that can't be artistically covered."

"Then we were to send a proof of the obituary and demand \$50 for its suppression. \$50 for the privilege of cutting and trimming it up and polishing it as much as he pleased, with the privilege of as many copies as he desired."

"At the end, by paying more money, a man could have as fine an obituary as he could pay for—one that his family would be proud of."

"There was no circulation to the paper. That the losing end of the newspaper game."

"When I got home to America I concluded that more money was to be made by writing than by two, so I gently but firmly had simply to eliminate Lucy from the money-making proposition, because I would kill it myself."

"I calculated that Lucy wouldn't come ashore until tomorrow, so I should not have sent the note until I was out of the country."

"That is a good fellow. I hope he will do it, but in his case and with his literary prospects I am reminded of what Stephen McKelvey said at the dinner of the Harpers: 'Harpers' gave me the night. He said that the Harpers, far as their arrangement with me was concerned, were living on hope, while I was living on accomplished certainties.'"

Mr. Clemens was up early yesterday at Mr. Grosvenor, for there were four women of them, the invalids, eighteen pieces of baggage, and one man headed himself in the party. The steamer was to sail from Hoboken at 11 a. m.

The humorist had his own troubles in getting the party started. On account of his wife's health, but also with the intention of accomplishing some literary work, he has started for the Villa Reale di Caserta, in Phlegrean Bay, near Naples, where he will act as his amanuensis.

"Well, I always felt sorry for Noah," remarked Mark Twain at the Grosvenor, "because Noah had a whole lot of trouble in getting all his animals aboard the ark."

"I am peevish today. I have absorbed all my wife's negativity and all my daughter's acidity."

At the pier the first gentleman to come up was an affable tax assessor, who wanted to know politely whether Mr. Clemens was coming back to America.

About the Casey house at Tarrytown, Mr. Clemens said: "I rented it for only \$500. As a matter of fact, I have not tried of paying rent for our house and only living in one house."

Col. Harvey, president of Harper's bade him good-by.

"Mr. Clemens, the literary section of a morning newspaper, today made you a present-day combination of Rabbits and Anaphorases," he was told.

"Rabbits, yes; Anaphorases, no," he replied. "I am an easy vessel on Anaphorases. Never knew him personally. All I ever did know about him I heard from William Dean Howells. From Howells I have got a confused idea of Anaphorases. At one time Howells said Anaphorases was sailing up the Rhine at Christmas."

Mr. Sin John H. Hapgood, and at Christmas I gathered Anaphorases from a Greek physician, and again an Italian virtuoso.

"But Rabbits I know from the bottom up. If I had lived in the fifteenth century I should have been a Rabbi. When the author of the literary supplement comes me down, I send him a modern Rabbits I call that handsome."

Mr. Clemens said some one had suggested to him that his character of the King, the tramp who claimed that he was the "Lost Dauphin," and who was stripped and painted with spots to impersonate a leopard at the show in "Huckleberry Finn," reminded him of Dowle.

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on the highest authority, however, that there will be no delays in the New York terminal improvements so far as the company is concerned. There is a time limit to this work, agreed upon between the New York Central management and the municipal authorities, and the engineering department of the railroad company has instructions to complete the work inside of this time limit if possible.

Some important projects will be held in check between New York and Chicago, the most important being the proposed new union station in Buffalo.

The Lake Shore railroad has also plans under consideration for extensive changes in its facilities in Cleveland, and these plans will be held in abeyance, as also will some desirable easterly extensions and connections of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis (Big Four) railroad.

President Ingalls of the last-named road says there are no indications of any falling off this year in the large traffic that the railroads have been handling so long. The controlling powers of the Vanderbilt system, it may be stated, are not basing their policy of retrenchment in traffic, but rather upon a desire to be in a safe position in existing unsatisfactory monetary and labor conditions do not check the general prosperity of the country.

James J. Hill's declaration that it is now impossible to go into Wall street and get large sums of money on satisfactory terms to put into railroad improvements is being made by railroad managers generally as the keynote of the situation. Mr. Hill's own railroad, the Great Northern, has made some marked reductions in its working force, and in its plans for immediate improvements. Mr. Hill's influence is strong in both the Erie and the Baltimore and Ohio.

The Erie has already announced that it will defer about \$500,000 of improvements on its line between the Great Northern and the Pennsylvania, and that all of the nonurgent work on the western divisions of the Baltimore and Ohio management will be temporarily abandoned. The letting of contracts for nearly \$1,000,000 of extensions will be postponed indefinitely.

The Baltimore and Ohio management is also preparing to reduce the number of its employees. Considerable ship work will be suspended in consequence of the gradual decrease in the demand for rolling stock.

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## WANTS

**WANTED—MISCELLANEOUS.**  
WANTED—Broom-corn and mail order for house. Star Brown and Brush Works, 1111 Lulu avenue. 12-10-11.  
WANTED—To buy second-hand cook stoves and heating stoves. J. W. Burton, 60 E. Douglas. 12-10-11.

**FOR SALE—MISCELLANEOUS.**  
FOR SALE—At auction, today, at No. 20 W. Douglas avenue, at 12:30 a. fine young Jersey cow, giving two gallons a day; cow, fawn, a dairy; a milkmaid, 20 pounds of star tobacco; also 20 pounds of star tobacco; and other stock. J. A. Benner, Auctioneer. 12-10-11.

**FOR SALE—Three horses, one express wagon and surrey, one double harness. Call rear 250 N. Topeka. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Pony and buggy, for \$5. Also stove, beds and bedding and table. 121 N. Mosley. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Choice milk cows. 107 N. Emporia. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—1,000 bushels of picked apples, four miles north and four west of Dodge Lake, good as new. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Carnation plants in bud and bloom, all colors, kinds that will bloom all winter; worth 20c to 35c. Take all you want for the cash. J. Kruehner, 1001 North Greenhouse. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Four-hole Peninsula cook stove; good condition. Call No. 420 West Elm. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—One base-burner, as good as new. 612 S. Main. H. F. Hoffman. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Coke, chaf. delivered to any part of city, 500-pound lots or more, 90c per cwt.; iron, 15c; ship, 90c; choice hay, 10 tons lots or upward, \$1.00; other grades from 50c to 10c per ton less. Winfield & Hodgson, 218 E. Douglas avenue, phone 484. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Second-hand steel range. Inquire 224 N. Topeka. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Kranich & Bach upright piano; 4 years; splendid instrument. \$300. Address J. B. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Delivery wagon, horse and harness, 16-foot counter, 6-foot show-case, almost new, sits on four wheels, running like a clock, good as new, good strong road wagon for \$10. 150 N. Main. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Apples, 25c up. R. A. Good, 1 mile south of Friendsburg, University. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Horse, buggy and harness, 820 N. Wichita. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—A good, gentle, family driving horse, city broke, 8 years old, and a 3-year-old mare, broke and good for work. 222 Douglas, 120 S. Market, or 121 S. Main, Wichita, Kan. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Soda fountain, counter and one front, cheap. Address "Point," 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—Forty horse-power boiler and 20-horse-power engine, with power heater now running in the Eagle office. Possession given October 31. All in good condition. Price and terms a bargain. A fine plant for elevator or small electric light plant. 8-11.**

**FOR SALE—Old phaeton, at your own price. 350 Waco avenue. 12-10-11.**

**FOR SALE—We have several cars of baled alfalfa hay, by the ton or in car lots. Call Cox, 301 E. Douglas. Telephone 109. 12-10-11.**

**ROOMS FOR RENT—Furnished.**  
FOR RENT—Two rooms, furnished, for light housekeeping. 225 W. Second. 12-10-11.

**FOR RENT—Furnished room, cheap. 303 N. Main. Inquire room 2, 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Rooms, furnished, all modern conveniences. 415 S. Main. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Furnished rooms, with outside entrance. 496 St. Francis. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Pleasant furnished, front room, heat and light. 240 N. Emporia. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Two nicely furnished rooms, with board. 412 N. Market. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Furnished, front room; heat; bath. 224 or 230 N. Topeka. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Large rooms, furnished or unfurnished. Inquire 412 N. Emporia. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Eight furnished rooms, with outside entrance. Inquire at T. E. Preston, 120 N. Market. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Nicely furnished, southeast room, with first-class board. Topeka. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Furnished rooms, 44 N. Market. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Furnished or unfurnished rooms. Inquire at room 2, 150 N. Main. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Nicely furnished rooms and bath. 120 and 122 N. Main. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Furnished rooms. 428 N. Emporia. 12-10-11.**

**ROOMS FOR RENT—Unfurnished.**  
FOR RENT—Number of unfurnished rooms, Lincoln and Lawrence. Inquire C. R. Miles, 120 N. Main. 12-10-11.

**FOR RENT—Two large, down-stairs, well-furnished, with outside entrance, water, very convenient for light housekeeping. 46 St. Francis. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Three nice, steam-heated rooms, all adjoining and well ventilated. Also 3 rooms, at 230 N. Main. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Four unfurnished rooms. Call at 317 S. Market. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Two rooms, for light housekeeping. 615 S. Main. 12-10-11.**

**FOR RENT—Three unfurnished rooms, connecting Thompson block, 237 S. Market street, flat No. 2. 12-10-11.**

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